

VZCZCXRO7694
OO RUEHCN RUEHGH RUEHVC
DE RUEHBJ #1348 1390909
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 190909Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4069
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4851
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 001348

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP AND EAP/CM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/19/2034

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [CH](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: CHINA PROTESTS PACOM ADMIRAL KEATING'S REMARKS IN INDIA

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i., William Weinstein.
Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

¶1. (C) In a May 18 meeting, MFA North American and Oceanian Affairs Department Director General Zheng Zeguang delivered a formal demarche to the Charge protesting remarks appearing in a Times of India article by Pacific Command (USPACOM) Commander Admiral Keating. Admiral Keating is quoted in the article as saying, "emboldened by its growing maritime might, China even suggested to the U.S. that it could 'look after' the eastern Pacific while Washington concentrated on the western Pacific. But I shot down the proposal."

¶2. (C) DG Zheng said this article was "absolutely inconsistent with the facts" and warned that "these types of remarks could have bad repercussions." Stating that PRC policy had been to "always follow the path of peaceful development" and that its defense policy was "defensive in nature," Zheng said it would be "impossible" for any Chinese official to make the sort of suggestion described by Admiral Keating. For a USG official to suggest otherwise is "irresponsible."

¶3. (C) Noting the positive direction of the U.S.-China relationship and recent successes in mil-mil relations, Zheng urged the U.S. to "take the demarche seriously" and "take immediate steps" to reduce the impact of the remarks lest further damage result. The Charge noted that China's protest referenced an Indian press story for which we could not vouch, but said he would relay China's concerns.

¶4. (C) Comment: DG Zheng, reading from a text, delivered the demarche in an almost perfunctory manner.
WEINSTEIN